LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Summer Experience and Resumes
As a student, it is important that you are able to distinguish yourself on a resume from other students. Proper use of your summer break can be a crucial factor towards getting your dream job out of college. Even as a freshman, summer experience can be beneficial towards your professional development. Here is a list of 4 ways to spend your summer vacation that you might want to give careful consideration.

1. Internship experience is an obvious way to gain professional experience. Any internship experience on a resume will show a potential employer both that you have learned the basics of the corporate world and that you have practiced some of the material you have learned in school. Also, an internship is a clear sign to your employer that you are ambitious.

2. Research is a testament to you ability to work independently. Many employers like to know that they can give you a project and be confident that you can do it by yourself. Research also demonstrates your interest in the material you study.

3. Summer School. Putting yourself ahead academically can either help get you out of school faster, or it can help lighten your academic load in the future. It is another good way to show an employer that you are being ambitious by making good use of the break.

4. Vacations and just-for-fun jobs. They may not be as advantageous to you resume, but for some people college may be the only opportunity to do something like backpack through Europe. As Ferris Bueller once said, “Life is short. If you don’t stop and look around once and a while: you might miss it.”

I personally had a just-for-fun job at the end of my freshman year and an internship at the end of my sophomore year, and it has worked out for me pretty well. My best piece of advice is to stay busy; sitting around on the couch eating Cheetos, while enjoyable, will only get old after the first week.

Drew Cormier
Chair of IEEE @ VT
COMPUTER BASH

If you all think back, you may fondly remember the days of EF 1015, that joyous class which taught us the importance of the engineering design cycle. Well, do you all remember what the final phase of that cycle was?

Rather than dust off you freshman year notes, I’ll tell you: OBsolescence. Once a piece of equipment is obsolete, what can you do? Why, beat the living snot out of it of course! I give you the IEEE Computer Bash, presented as part of E-week in March. So, come on out, go Office Space on a poor unsuspecting Pentium Pro box, and give that PC Load Letter something to think about!

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS CONFERENCE

On March 25th at 1:00 PM the IEEE at Virginia Tech will hold its first annual Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC). Two national speakers, Professor Michael R. Andrews and Professor Joseph M. DeSalvo, will be giving talks on “The Importance of a Professional Society.” Professor Andrews will speak about Professional Society Involvement and Professor DeSalvo’s talk will focus on University to Real World: Professionalism is the Key Link.

The conference will last from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM at the Holiday Inn - University at 900 Prices Fork Road. The Holiday Inn is accessible by both Tom’s Creek Buses; exit the bus at the Math Emporium.

OPTICAL MICE

Computer technology is improving big and small. Some upgrades are inside the beige box; others are outside. More and more computer users are switching to optical mice.

Optical mice do away with the dusty balls. They use image-sensing technology to accurately move your cursor around the screen.

A red laser is underneath the mouse, shining light onto a flat surface. That light is reflected off that surface into the optical sensor. The optical sensor is a small little chip. Most mice use optical sensors made by Agilent. These sensors can have resolutions ranging from 400 to 1000 counts per inch. Detection speed is around 12 inches per second. The sensor has no moving parts. This means no dust getting caught inside and hindering movement.

Optical mice come in PS/2 and USB interfaces and are pretty inexpensive.
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